

**REMARKS**

***Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Please reconsider the application in view of the remarks set out below.

Claims 37-42 and 44-55 are pending.

Claims 50-55 are new.

Claims 44-49 have been allowed.

Claim 43 is now canceled.

Claims 37-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rhodes et al. (U.S. Patent 5,401,512), (“Rhodes”).

Amended, independent Claim 37 recites, “A drug delivery matrix, comprising a copolymer of ethylene with carboxylic acid and a drug contained within or attached to the matrix, wherein the copolymer is a coating on an implantable substrate.”

Rhodes fails to teach or suggest that the “copolymer is a coating on an implantable substrate” as recited by amended, independent Claim 1 of the present invention. Rather, Rhodes provides “an orally administrable formulation for selectively administering the drug to the large intestine” (Column 1, line 44-46). Since Rhodes fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of Claim 37, Claim 37 and claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

*Conclusion*

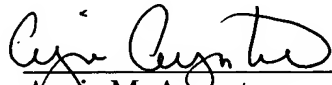
Claims 37-42 and 44-55 are pending in this application. Claims 37-42 have been placed in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the foregoing amendments and issue a Notice of Allowability. If I can be of any help in any way, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

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Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P.  
One Maritime Plaza  
Suite 300  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
Facsimile (415) 393-9887  
Telephone (415) 954-0200



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Angie M. Augustus  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 51,421